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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,757	06/27/2001	James Brian Vrotacoe	600.1168	4850

7590

07/15/2002

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New York, NY 10018

EXAMINER

FUNK, STEPHEN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/893,757

Applicant(s)
Vrotacoe et al.

Examiner
Stephen Funk

Art Unit
2854



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Jun 27, 2001 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 6) ☐ Other: _____

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The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In paragraph [0007] line 1 the status of application "09/472,337" should be updated. The phrase on line 1 of paragraph [0047] is grammatically unclear. In paragraph [0052] line 1 "an" should be --a--. In paragraph [0053] line 2 "has" should be --have--. In claim 3 line 1 --a-- should be inserted before "second". Appropriate correction is required.

The drawings are objected to because reference numeral "5", as addressed in paragraph [0049] line 2, is not shown in Figure 1. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 - 13, 16 - 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Castelli et al. (US 5,700,343). See the entire document of Castelli et al.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a

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person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castelli et al. in view of Cushner et al. (US 5,798,019) and McConnell (US 5,301,610). Castelli et al. do not specifically teach forming the blanket continuously. Cushner et al. teach continuously applying a curable layer to a translating base sleeve. See column 2 line 48 - column 3 line 20 and Figures 1 and 4 of Cushner et al., for example. Cushner et al. do not teach a continuous base sleeve. McConnell teaches the desirability of continuously forming a base sleeve. See column 5 lines 4 - 17 of McConnell, for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the device of Castelli et al. with the capability of continuously forming the base sleeve and blanket in view of Cushner et al. and McConnell so as to more quickly produce tubular printing blankets.

Claims 5 - 7, 14, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castelli et al. in view of Schisler et al. (US 4,767,793). Castelli et al. teach an infrared radiation curing compressible layer. Schisler et al. teach the conventionality of a UV radiation curing urethane compressible layer. See the Abstract, column 1 lines 40 - 61, column 6 lines 40 - 52, and column 9 lines 41 - 43 of Schisler et al., for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the blanket of Castelli et al. with a UV curing urethane layer in view of Schisler et al. so as to cure the compressible layer without exposing it to damaging high temperatures.

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See column 8 lines 16 - 39 of Hatch et al. ('386) and the paragraph bridging columns 6 and 7 of Gaworowski et al. ('487).

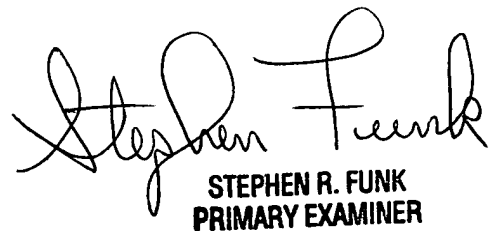
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Funk at telephone number (703) 308-0982. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday - Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Hirshfeld, can be reached at (703) 305-6619.

The fax number for *official* papers is (703) 308-7722, 7724. The fax number for those wishing an auto-reply verifying receipt of *official* papers is (703) 872-9318 or for After-Final actions is (703) 872-9319. Upon consulting with the examiner *unofficial* papers only may be faxed directly to the examiner.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at telephone number (703) 308-0956.

Stephen Funk
July 11, 2002



STEPHEN R. FUNK
PRIMARY EXAMINER